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AXBRIDGE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORTS

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

1962.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS:-

D. McGOWAN

M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health,
Town Hall, Weston-super-Mare.
Tel: Weston-super-Mare 890.

J. H. ELLIS

Chief Public Health Inspector,
Certificate of R.S.I. and
S.I.E.J.B. Certificate of
R.S.I. for Inspectors of Meat
and other Foods.

W. HIGHAM

Deputy Chief Public Health
Inspector,
Certificate of R.S.A.(Scotland)
Certificate of R.S.A.(Scotland)
for Inspectors of Meat and other
Foods.

D. GRANTLEY SMITH

District Public Health Inspector,
Certificate of R.S.I. and S.I.E.J.B.

R. T. BARRON

District Public Health Inspector,
Certificate of R.S.A.(Scotland)
Certificate of R.S.I. for
Inspectors of Meat and other Foods.

J. S. S. STRONG

Rodent Officer.

AXBURIDGE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1962.

TO: THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
AXBURIDGE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you the Annual Report on the health of the District, and the work of the Public Health Department in 1962.

The statistical section again shows rates which bear favourable comparison with the rest of the Country. The Infant Mortality Rate, which is often considered to be an indication of the general standard of living of an area, is low, and the Birth Rate is the highest it has been for many years. Is this a sign of rejuvenation of the District? Not of individuals, but of the District as a whole? Has the trend towards the preponderance of the elderly stopped, and are more young people now living in the area?

In the table showing the causes of death, the infectious diseases have ceased to be important as a cause of death, and tuberculosis, which not so long ago was a scourge, only produced one death in 1962. On the other hand, we cannot be complacent about deaths due to accident, either on the road or elsewhere. In 1962, there were 19 deaths due to accidents, compared with 14 in 1961.

Mr. Naylor, the Housing Manager, has carried out a very timely review of the housing needs of the area, which will give you the guidance required in deciding what building is required for the immediate future. Planning the new sewage schemes required at Kewstoke, Hutton, Banwell, Locking, Bleadon, Brean and Berrow is still going on and a number of other parishes are asking for the same facilities.

Regarding hospital facilities in the area the Minister of Health has given permission for the Regional Hospital Board to go ahead with the new district general hospital for the area. The new hospital will cover the needs of Axbridge, Weston-super-Mare and Burnham-on-Sea. The exact size and site of the new hospital are not known yet.

Mr. Ellis' section of the Report shows the ever increasing amount of work carried out as a routine by the Public Health Inspectors. This work is the basis of Public Health administration in the area, but I think the Council will have to reconsider in the near future, the scope of some of the work given to the District Inspectors. As time passes duties have been given to them which are not really connected with Public Health.

Finally, I would like to thank Mr. Ellis, the Chief Public Health Inspector, and other members of the staff of the Public Health Department for the excellent work they have put in during the year, and may I also thank the Chairman and Members of the Committees with which the Health Department is associated for their support, and the Officers and Staff of other Departments for their assistance and co-operation.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

D. McGOWAN.

Medical Officer of Health.

October, 1963.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS

General Statistics.

Area of District	90,551 acres
Population: 1931 Census	22,076
" 1951 "	26,535
" Registrar General's Estimate for Mid 1962	31,620
Rateable Value	£1,060,663
Number of Inhabited Houses	9,785

Extracts from Vital Statistics for Year 1962

LIVE BIRTHS:

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	275	260	535
Illegitimate	11	9	20
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	286	269	555
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

LIVE BIRTHS RATE: (per 1,000 population) = 17.6

CORRECTED BIRTH RATE: (Comparability Factor 1.07) = 18.9

ILLEGITIMATE LIVE BIRTHS: (per cent of total live births) = 3.6%

STILL BIRTHS

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	5	3	8
Illegitimate	1	-	1
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	6	3	9
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

STILL BIRTH RATE: (per 1,000 live and still births) = 16.0

TOTAL LIVE AND STILL BIRTHS: 564

INFANT DEATHS: (Deaths under 1 year)

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	5	3	8
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	5	3	8
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

INFANT MORTALITY RATES

TOTAL INFANT DEATHS (per 1,000 live births) = 14.4

LEGITIMATE INFANT DEATHS (per 1,000 legitimate live births) = 14.4

ILLEGITIMATE INFANT DEATHS (per 1,000 illegitimate live births) = Nil

NEONATAL MORTALITY RATE (per 1,000 live births) = 14.4

EARLY NEONATAL MORTALITY RATE (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 live births) = 14.4

PERINATAL MORTALITY RATE (still births & deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live & still births) = 30.1

MATERNAL DEATHS - Nil

MATERNAL MORTALITY RATE (per 1,000 live and still births) = Nil

DEATHS:

<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
185	193	378

CRUDE DEATH RATE: (per 1,000 population) = 12.0

CORRECTED DEATH RATE: (Comparability Factor 0.92) = 11.0

VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS

The Registrar General gives the corrected number of live births in the District as 555 (286 boys and 269 girls), this being 117 births more than in 1961. Of these births 20 were illegitimate (11 boys and 9 girls).

The crude birth rate for 1962 was 17.6 and when the comparability factor (1.07) is applied, the corrected birth rate was 18.9 per 1,000 of the total population compared with 15.2 in 1961. The birth rate for England and Wales in 1962 was 18.0.

BIRTH RATES

<u>Year:</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1954</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1957</u>	<u>1958</u>	<u>1959</u>	<u>1960</u>	<u>1961</u>	<u>1962</u>
England and Wales	15.5	15.2	15.0	15.6	16.1	16.4	16.5	17.1	17.4	18.0
Axbridge Rural District	15.2	16.0	14.6	12.8	15.9	16.4	14.9	18.0	15.2	18.9

STILL BIRTHS

The registered number of still births in 1962 was 9 (6 males and 3 females) of which none were illegitimate, thus giving a still birth rate of 16.0 per 1,000 total births.

DEATHS

After correction for transferable deaths the net total assigned to the District by the Registrar General was 378 (185 males and 193 females). This is 11 less than in 1961 and gives a crude death rate of 12.0. When adjusted for age and sex distribution to make it comparable with other districts, the death rate was 11.0 per 1,000 of total population compared with 11.9 for England and Wales as a whole.

The following table shows the causes of death in 1962:-

<u>Causes of Death</u>	<u>1962</u>		
	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	-	1	1
Other forms of tuberculosis	-	-	-
Syphilitic diseases	1	-	1
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-
Meningococcal Infection	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	-
Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	4	1	5
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	7	3	10
Malignant neoplasm, breasts	-	2	2
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	1	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasm	23	18	41
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	2	-	2
Diabetes	1	3	4
Vascular lesions of nervous system	21	33	54
Coronary disease, angina pectoria	41	23	64
Hypertension with heart disease	4	8	12
Other heart diseases	19	29	48
Other circulatory diseases	5	14	19
Influenza	1	1	2
Pneumonia	6	9	15
Bronchitis	6	3	9
Other diseases of respiratory system	6	5	11
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	-	2	2
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	-	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	2	3
Hyperplasia of prostate	3	-	3
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-	-
Congenital malformations	2	1	3
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	12	28	40
Motor vehicle accidents	6	-	6
All other accidents	7	6	13
Suicide	5	-	5
Homicide and operations of war	1	-	1
<hr/>			
All Causes - <u>Total</u>	185	193	378
<hr/>			

SEX AND AGE DISTRIBUTION OF DEATHS 1962.

Ages at Death in Years:-

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Under 1	5	3	8
1 - 4	2	1	3
5 - 14	-	-	-
15 - 24	3	1	4
25 - 44	10	1	11
45 - 64	36	24	60
65 - 69	24	21	45
<u>Total under 70 years</u>	<u>-----</u> 80	<u>-----</u> 51	<u>-----</u> 131
70 - 74	26	30	56
75 - 79	27	34	61
80 - 84	28	25	53
85 - 89	22	35	57
90 - 94	2	10	12
95 - 99	-	8	8
100 plus	-	-	-
<u>Total over 70 years</u>	<u>-----</u> 105	<u>-----</u> 142	<u>-----</u> 247
	<u>-----</u> 185	<u>-----</u> 193	<u>-----</u> 378

MATERNAL MORTALITY

There were no deaths from maternal causes in 1962.

INFANT MORTALITY

Causes of Death	Under 1 day	1-7 days	1-4 wks	Total under 1 month	1-3 mnths	3-6 mnths	6-9 mnths	9-12 mnths	Total under 1 year
Prematurity	4	1	-	5	-	-	-	-	5
Congenital malformations	-	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	2
Atelectasis	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
	4	4	-	8	-	-	-	-	8

WATER SUPPLIES

No shortage of water supplies was reported from any part of the District in 1962.

Every parish has a piped water supply and 9,666 houses are supplied by the Bristol Waterworks Company. In addition 28 houses are supplied directly by private supplies. Ten houses are supplied by standpipe. Eighty houses depend on wells, 24 on springs, and 14 depend on rainwater for their water supplies. During the year a piped supply was substituted for well water in 2 houses.

Bacteriological and chemical sampling of the public supplies is now carried out by the Bristol Waterworks Company, but independent sampling is still done by the Council's Public Health Department. The results of such sampling are given in the Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The following parishes have main drainage and efficient sewage disposal systems:- Axbridge, Banwell, Blagdon, Butcombe, Cheddar, Winscombe, Locking, part of Shipham, Congresbury and Wrington.

The following extensions, new works or improvements were carried out during the year:-

(a) <u>Completed</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Southmead, Winscombe - sewer extension	£1,655
Burnham Without - sewer extension	£ 989
Brent Knoll - sewer extension	£1,277) 400)
Mark Housing Site Works	£3,000
(b) <u>In progress</u>	
Wedmore sewerage and sewage disposal	£48,649
(c) <u>Future proposals</u>	<u>Approximate Cost</u>
Kewstoke sewerage and sewage disposal	£118,950
Hutton, Banwell and Locking, Phase I	£ 49,809
Hutton, Banwell and Locking, Phase II	£ 30,000
Sandford, Churchill, Langford	Cost not known
Bleadon sewerage and sewage disposal	£ 34,000
Brean and Berrow sewerage and sewage disposal	£ 90,000
Reconstruction of Cheddar Disposal Works	£ 50,000

HOUSING

The following table shows that during the past six years, the emphasis on the building of new houses in the District has changed from building by the Local Authority to building by private enterprise. It will be seen from the table that 1957 was the last year in which any appreciable number of houses were built by the Local Authority for general purposes, and since then the majority of the houses built have been mainly for the elderly. In 1962, of the 29 houses erected 19 were Old People's bungalows.

	New Houses built by	
	Local Authority	Private Enterprise
1957	112	124
1958	34	145
1959	11	181
1960	9	284
1961	8	290
1962	29	247
	203	1271

	<u>December</u> <u>1962</u>	<u>December</u> <u>1961</u>
Number of houses owned by the Council	1597	1568
Number of applicants for Council houses (inc. Old People's dwellings)	395	414
Number of families rehoused during the year	63	52

At the end of 1962, there were 395 applicants for accommodation in houses owned by the District Council, but recently Mr. Naylor, the Housing Manager, has reviewed the list of applicants according to the urgency of their housing needs. This gives a more precise indication of the housing needs of the District.

Category	Applicants on General List.	Applicants for Old People's Dwellings.	Total
"A" - Urgent need for re-housing.	25	5	30
"B" - Qualify for re-housing but need not urgent.	120	59	179
"C" - No immediate need for re-housing or no particular claim upon this Council for re-housing.	98	26	124
<u>Total</u>	243	90	333

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following table shows the notifications of infectious diseases in the District during the year:-

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Total cases notified</u>
Measles	108
Scarlet Fever	12
Diphtheria	-
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever	-
Peurperal Pyrexia	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-
Meningococcal Infection	-
Dysentery	-
Whooping Cough	3
Acute Primary Pneumonia)	17
Acute Influenza Pneumonia)	17
Acute Poliomyelitis	-
Acute Encephalitis	-
Erysipelas	2
Food Poisoning	1
Tuberculosis - Respiratory	9
Tuberculosis - Non-Respiratory	2

VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX

The most important occurrence in 1962, so far as Public Health was concerned was the outbreak of smallpox in the Country during the early months of the year. The outbreak was really five separate epidemics due to the importation of five separate cases of smallpox by air from Pakistan during late December, 1961 and January, 1962. The most severe outbreaks occurred at Bradford in Yorkshire, and in South Wales, but fortunately no cases occurred in Somerset. There was, therefore, no need for vaccination or revaccination of the public on a large scale in this area, but throughout the Country there was a tremendous demand for vaccination from the general public. In addition, many other European Countries demanded certificates of vaccination from people travelling from this Country. The effect of this can be seen in the following figures giving the number of people of different age groups who were vaccinated against smallpox in 1962. The 1961 figures are also given for comparison.

The following table shows the number of people vaccinated or revaccinated in the District in 1961 and 1962:-

<u>Under 1 Year</u>	<u>1 Year</u>		<u>2 - 4 Yrs.</u>		<u>5 - 14 Yrs.</u>		<u>15 Yrs. or Over</u>		<u>TOTAL</u>		
	P.	R.	P.	R.	P.	R.	P.	R.	P.	R.	
1961:132	1	21	-	8	-	17	3	1	2	179	6
1962:192	-	57	-	76	24	338	291	496	999	1159	1314

P. = Primary Vaccination

R. = Revaccination

TUBERCULOSIS

Nine new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis and two cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were notified during the year. There was only one death due to this cause during the year. The number of cases on the Register at the end of the year was:-

<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>		<u>Total</u>	
<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
77	62	10	7	87	69

B.C.G. VACCINATION AGAINST TUBERCULOSIS

In 1956, the County Council, as the Local Health Authority, introduced a scheme for the vaccination of children against tuberculosis. B.C.G. (Bacillus Calmette Guerin) vaccine is used and the offer extended to all thirteen-year old children. The children are first given a skin test with tuberculin (Heaf Test)

and if the skin reaction is negative, they are then vaccinated. Children showing a positive Heaf Test do not require vaccination.

In 1962, 251 thirteen-year old children in the Axbridge area had the preliminary Heaf Test and of these 18 were found to be positive, i.e. 7.2%. The remaining 233 negative reactors were vaccinated.

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA, WOOPING COUGH AND TETANUS

Again there were no cases of diphtheria notified during 1962, the last to occur in the District being in 1946. Immunisation against diphtheria by private doctors and in Infant Welfare Clinics continued throughout the year and 299 children under 5 years of age received primary immunisation. 28 children in the age group 5 - 14 years received primary immunisation and 245 children under the age of 15 years received reinforcing doses.

304 children under the age of five years were immunised against Whooping Cough, and 310 were immunised against Tetanus.

POLIOMYELITIS IMMUNISATION

Since immunisation against poliomyelitis started in 1957, the vaccine used has been the Salk type which had to be given by injection. In February 1962, the Ministry of Health authorised the use of Sabin vaccine which is given by mouth. Naturally this is a much more convenient method of giving the vaccine, and is much more acceptable to both children and adults. The value of immunisation has already been shown by the fact that poliomyelitis is now a comparatively rare disease and it is hoped that before long it will be completely eliminated from this Country. The following gives details of the numbers who were given immunisation in the area during 1962.

(a) Primary Immunisation

	<u>Salk</u>	<u>Oral</u>
Children born 1943 - 62.	199	189
Young persons born 1933 - 42.	54	34
Persons under 40 years of age and priority groups.	129	57

(b) In addition, 1563 people (in all age groups) received a reinforcing dose either with Salk or Oral vaccine.

HOSPITALS

Early in 1962, the Minister of Health issued his long-awaited Plan giving his priorities for new hospital building during the next ten years. One of the more important factors of this Hospital Plan was the concept of the district general hospital which provides treatment and diagnostic facilities both for in-patients and out-patients, and includes a maternity unit, a short-stay psychiatric unit and a geriatric unit. It was expected that one of these new district hospitals would be built in this area to replace the existing hospitals, and it was a great disappointment to us to see that it was not included in the original 10 year Plan in 1962. Early in 1963, however, the Minister issued his first review of the Plan and I am very glad to say that he has decided to bring forward the date of the building of the new hospital into the first 10 years. A Project Team set up by the Regional Hospital Board is already at work on the extremely complicated business of planning the new hospital.

LOCAL HEALTH AUTHORITY SERVICES

The County Council, as the Local Health Authority, is responsible for the provision of a number of personal health services mainly connected with maternity and child welfare; the School Health Service (through the Education Committee) and mental health. The Medical Officer of Health to the District Council is also the Divisional School Medical Officer for the N.W. Somerset Divisional Executive Area, and carries out a number of other duties concerned with the personal health services of the County Council. Child Welfare Clinics are held at Axbridge, Banwell, Bleadon, Cheddar, Congresbury, Hutton, Kewstoke, Locking R.A.F. Camp, Locking Village, Winscombe and Wrington.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
1962.

To: THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
AXBRIDGE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen.

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the Year 1962.

HOUSING.

The following tables indicate the progress which was made during the year in dealing with sub-standard houses. There are no matters which call for special comment.

Discretionary Improvement Grants.

	<u>Received</u>	<u>Approved</u>	<u>Rejected</u>
Position at 31st December, 1961.	417 applications (471 dwellings)	405 applications (457 dwellings)	12 applications (14 dwellings)
Applications dealt with during 1962.	41 applications (44 dwellings)	40 applications (43 dwellings)	1 application (1 dwelling)
Position at 31st December, 1962.	458 applications (515 dwellings)	445 applications (500 dwellings)	13 applications (15 dwellings)

Standard Improvement Grants.

	<u>Applications Received</u>	<u>Applications Approved</u>	<u>Applications Rejected</u>
Position at 31st December, 1961.	69	61	8
Applications dealt with during 1962.	23	23	-
Position at 31st December, 1962.	92	84	8

Rural Housing Survey.

During the year 43 surveyed houses were made fit compared with 58 in 1961. 9 houses were demolished during the year. The summary of categories, revised to December, 1962 is as follows:-

Number of properties satisfactory in all respects (Category 1)	983
Number of properties with minor defects (Category 2)	515
Number of properties requiring major repair or structural alteration (Category 3)	2,138
Number of properties unfit for habitation and incapable of repair at reasonable cost (Category 5)	259

Statutory Action under the Provisions of
The Housing Acts.

During the year, statutory action under the provisions of Section 16 of the Housing Act 1957 was instituted in respect of 30 dwellings. The result of such action is summarised as follows:-

Cases under consideration at 31.12.61.	22
<u>During 1962</u>	
Demolition Orders made	1
Closing Orders made	-
Undertakings accepted not to use premises for human habitation until made fit	11
Undertakings accepted to make premises fit	8
Cases under consideration at 31.12.62.	32

OVERCROWDING

On the 31st December, 1962 there were 4 cases of statutory overcrowding on the register.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

During the year there has been steady progress in the work of improving caravan sites to the standard required by the new conditions attached to licences issued under the provisions of the Caravan Sites & Control of Development Act 1960.

A. Number of licensed caravan sites (more than one caravan)	62
Number of applications for caravan site licences pending - December 1962	6
Total number of caravans permitted on these sites	2662
B. Number of caravan sites licensed during year (single caravans)	20
C. Number of tent sites licensed during year	4
Number of tents permitted on these sites	84

FOOD PREMISES

Details of the number of routine inspections of food premises are given in the summary at the end of this report.

No statutory proceedings were instituted during the year.

Particulars of the various types of food premises in the District are given below:-

Number of Food Premises in Area
(excluding registered dairy premises)

A. Food Manufacturing Premises

Edible Fat Refineries	2
Cheese Straw Factory	1
Cheese Factories	3
Bakers	8

B. Retail Shops

Grocers	132
Confectioners	48
Butchers	20
Fishmongers & Greengrocers (combined)	4
Greengrocers	7
Dairies	2

C. Catering Premises
(including licensed premises) 140

D. Premises registered under the provisions
of Section 14 of the Food & Drugs Act,
1938 (excluding premises used for the
manufacture, storage and sale of ice-cream)

Sausage making	14
Fish frying	4

MILK AND DAIRIES

Number of registered dairies	5
Number of milk distributors	67

ICE CREAM

The ice-cream manufactured in the District is manufactured in accordance with the provisions of the Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment etc.) Regulations, 1947 to 1952, in preparation rooms which have been especially constructed or adapted for the purpose.

Number of premises registered for the manufacture of ice-cream (complete cold mix)	2
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Number of premises registered for the sale of ice-cream	193
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Because of the pressure of other work no samples of ice-cream were taken during the year.

WATER SUPPLIES

The following is a summary of the results of the bacteriological examinations of the monthly water samples taken from the public supplies. All these supplies are chlorinated.

	Probable No. of Coliform Bacilli MacConkey 2 days <u>37°C</u>	<u>0 per 100 ml.</u>
Cheddar and Axbridge	12 samples	
South Mendip (Cross)	12 "	
South Mendip (Dunyeatt)	12 "	
Winscombe & Churchill	12 "	
North Mendip	12 "	
Burrington	12 "	
Twin Brook Adit	12 "	
Blagdon	12 "	
Kewstoke	12 "	
North Mendip (Chelvey)	12 "	
	120 "	

A sample of water from each of the above supplies was submitted for chemical analysis during the year. All these samples were reported upon by the Analyst as being free from plumbo-solvency or other harmful contamination.

23 samples of water were taken for bacteriological examination from 22 private premises not receiving a supply from the public mains. The samples of water from 18 of these premises proved to be satisfactory and 4 to be unsatisfactory. A supply from the public main was substituted for other supplies in 20 premises.

MEAT INSPECTION

Two private slaughterhouses were licensed in the District and continued in operation throughout the year.

The following table gives particulars of carcases and offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part during the year.

	Cattle excluding cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Horses
Number Killed	146	3	19	463	274	-
Number inspected	146	3	19	463	274	-
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci.</u>						
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	1	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	32	2	-	15	26	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	21.9	66.6	5.3	3.2	9.4	-
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>						
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Cysticercosis</u>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Weight of meat condemned (in lbs.) for:-						
(a) Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Cysticercosis	-	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Other	253	14	20	15 $\frac{3}{4}$	54	-
Total (in lbs.) condemned	253	14	20	15 $\frac{3}{4}$	54	-

CESSPOOL CLEANSING

Considerable difficulty was experienced during the year in the disposal of cesspool contents because of the trouble caused at the sewage disposal works by the discharge of tanker contents to sewerage systems. Lagoon treatment on the old Axbridge refuse tip was instituted as a temporary alternative.

Total number of cesspools and settlement tanks cleansed during the year	1,273
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DRAINAGE

Individual house drainage in the District continues to give cause for concern. The main trouble is that so much of the District is basically unsuitable for sub-soil irrigation because of clay sub-soil and high land water tables. Unfortunately these areas are also mainly those which are unsewered. New building is proceeding at a high rate and many houses with septic tank drainage will inevitably give use to further trouble.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

There was an increase of more than 400 tons in the amount of refuse collected in 1962 compared with the amount collected in 1961.

The sale of waste paper during the year again proved difficult.

Estimated total amount of refuse collected during the year	8,250 tons
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Total amount of salvaged material disposed of during year:-

	T.	Cwt.	Qr.	£.	s.	d.
(a) Paper and Cardboard	87	13	2	100.	0.	0.
				(part payment).		
(b) Rags	.7	1	3	85.	1.	0.

RODENT CONTROL

The following is a copy of the annual return submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food, which gives details of rodent control work carried out in the District during the 12 months ending 31st December, 1962.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.
REPORT FOR 12 MONTHS ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1962.

Local Authority	TYPE OF PROPERTY					Agric-	
	Non-Agricultural		Total	of Cols.	ultural		
	Dwelling Houses	All other (inc. business premises)					
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)		
I. No. of properties in Local Authority's District	16	9758	575	10376	974		
II. Total No. of properties inspected as a result of notification	-	165	17	182	14		
No. of such properties found to be infested by:-							
Common rat	Major	-	9	4	13	20	
	Minor	-	109	4	113	-	
Ship rat	Major	-	-	-	-	-	
	Minor	-	-	-	-	-	
House mouse	Major	-	16	5	21	19	
	Minor	-	31	4	35	21	
III. Total No. of properties inspected in the course of survey under the Act	16	1496	190	1691	342		
No. of such properties found to be infested by:-							
Common rat	Major	5	10	3	18	39	
	Minor	8	291	29	328	14	
Ship rat	Major	-	-	-	-	-	
	Minor	-	-	-	-	-	
House mouse	Major	-	4	4	8	12	
	Minor	2	16	21	39	132	
IV. Total number of properties otherwise inspected (e.g. when visited primarily for some other purpose)	2	10	10	22	2		
No. of such properties found to be infested by:-							
Common rat	Major	-	4	1	5	1	
	Minor	-	4	2	6	1	
Ship rat	Major	-	-	-	-	-	
	Minor	-	-	-	-	-	
House mouse	Major	-	1	1	2	-	
	Minor	1	1	6	8	-	

TYPE OF PROPERTY
Non-Agricultural

	Local Authority	Dwellings	All other	Total	Agric-
		Houses (inc.Council Houses)	(inc.business premises)	of Cols. 1, 2 & 3	ultural (5)
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	
V.	Total inspections carried out - inc. re-inspections	63	1691	242	1996 410
VI.	No.of infested properties in Sections II, III & IV treated by the L.A.	10	416	27	453 21
VII.	Total treatments carried out - inc. re-treatments	17	378	30	425 42
VIII.	No.of notices served under Sec.4 of the Act:				
	(a) Treatment	-	-	-	-
	(b) Structural Work (i.e.proofing)	-	-	-	-
IX.	No.of cases in which default action was taken following the issue of a notice under Sec,4 of Act	-	-	-	-
X.	Legal Proceedings	-	-	-	-
XI.	No.of "Block" control schemes carried out	51			

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS

The following table gives the particulars of the work carried out during the year:-

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions of health:-

<u>Premises</u>	<u>Number on Register</u>	<u>Inspections</u>	<u>Written Notices</u>	<u>Occupiers Prosecuted</u>	<u>Number of</u>
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	6	6	Nil	Nil	
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	108	112	Nil	Nil	
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding Outworkers' premises)	13	13	Nil	Nil	
	127	131	Nil	Nil	

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found

	<u>Number of cases in which defects were found</u>				
	<u>Found</u>	<u>Remedied</u>	<u>Referred to To H.M. Insp.</u>	<u>By H.M. Insp.</u>	<u>Number of cases in which prose- cutions were instituted.</u>
Want of cleanliness (S1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S7)	-	-	-	-	-
(a) Insufficient	-	1	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	3	3	-	2	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
	3	4	-	2	-

PETROLEUM

All petroleum storage installations are inspected annually before applications for renewal of licences are considered by the Public Health Committee.

Tests of existing underground storage tanks were initiated towards the end of the year.

Number of premises licenced for the storage of petrol	144
Number of existing underground tanks tested	18
Number of underground tanks failing test	3

Two of the defective tanks were removed and replaced by new. The use of the other tank was discontinued and it was filled with fine concrete.

SUMMARY OF WORK CARRIED OUT BY, OR UNDER THE
SUPERVISION OF, THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS

Total number of inspections made (including re-inspections) 4,909
Total number of houses and premises inspected 2,058

Number of inspections made of:-

Dwelling houses	1,414
Food premises and catering establishment (Food & Drugs Act)	517
Caravan Sites and Moveable Dwellings	854
Factories	112
Shops (Shops Act)	302
Ice Cream Premises	118
Dairies	23
Drainage Systems	344
Petrol Installations	632
Swill boiling plants	35
Agricultural Holdings	111
Premises as the result of complaints of nuisance	355
Tests of Swimming Bath Water	24
Investigations into cases of infectious diseases	29
Premises, disinfected or disinfested	27
Drain tests of drainage systems believed to be defective	18

In conclusion I would like to thank the Chairman and Members of the Council for their support and the Medical Officer of Health, the other Chief Officers of the Council and the staff of the Public Health Department for their co-operation and assistance during the year.

I remain,

Your obedient Servant,

J. H. ELLIS.

Chief Public Health Inspector.

